THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART
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April 2, 1993 Contact: Denise Horstman

Recorded Tour of Baroque Music at The Cleveland Museum of Art
Through March 31, 1994

The worlds of visual and musical arts overlap in many works on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art. Music was an extremely popular theme in Baroque art, so to help visitors understand the musical connections 17th-century artists made, the Museum has made a 40-minute cassette tape guiding visitors to selected works in the Armor Court and three other galleries of the Museum's original 1916 building.

Ross Duffin, Kulas Professor of Music at Case Western Reserve University, chose the art and music included on the tour, wrote the script, and serves as narrator. He begins with Guercino's 1624 oil painting, *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*, in which an angel entertains the Holy Family, playing a violin which looks remarkably similar to its modern counterparts but is held and played much differently. For the final stop on the tour, visitors see tapestries made for the Barberini family in Rome, depicting the tragic love story of Dido and Aeneas (from the 4th Book of Virgil's *Aeneid)*, and enjoy music from Henry Purcell's early opera about the legendary couple, composed in the 1680s. As Professor Duffin says of opera--and of the genesis of this musical gallery tour--composers "knew that combining the visual effect of the sets and costumes, the intrigue of the plot, and the lyricism and passion of the music would be an irresistible mix for audiences of the time, and that in any era, the blending of art and music makes an experience that's <u>more</u> than the sum of its parts."

Cleveland-area musicians perform on the tape, using period instruments. Dr. Duffin's historical and musical precision included choosing music as similar as possible to each work of visual art in its date and place of composition, and placing musicians for recording as they are positioned in such works as Pieter de Hooch's *The Music Party*.

Visitors may obtain the cassette tape and a personal stereo at the *south lobby* checkroom counter, leaving a driver's license or comparable identification as a "deposit." A similar tour of the Renaissance galleries will be available within the next few months.

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Other works explored include Bernardo Strozzi's *Allegorical Figure*, Castiglione's *Journey of a Patriarch*, deChampaigne's portrait of *Charles II*, Baschenis' *Still Life with Instruments*, and Ochtervelt's *A Musical Company*. The recorded tour is an outgrowth of visitor studies undertaken during the 1990-1991 Renaissance-Baroque gallery reinstallation, and was made possible by funds from the Getty Grant Program.

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Seventy-fifth
Anniversary